This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for enhanced quality of identification in a data communications network, the method comprising:

obtaining a user identifier, said user identifier comprising an identification server ID and an identification randomized ID, said identification server ID identifying an identification server peer group, said identification server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between an identification randomized ID and a user authentication peer group capable of authenticating a user associated with a particular identification randomized ID, and a mapping between said identification randomized ID and user information; and

requesting authorization of said user by presenting said user identifier to a corresponding identification server peer group, each server in said identification server peer group configured to search for one or more matching entries including said randomized ID.

2.   (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for enhanced quality of identification in a data communications network, the method comprising:

obtaining a user identifier, said user identifier comprising an identification server ID and an identification randomized ID, said identification server ID identifying an identification server peer group, said identification server peer group comprising at least one

server that maintains a mapping between an identification randomized ID and a user authentication peer group capable of authenticating a user associated with a particular identification randomized ID, and a mapping between said identification randomized ID and user information; and

requesting authentication of said user by presenting said user identifier to a corresponding identification server peer group, each server in said identification server peer group configured to search for one or more matching entries including said randomized ID.

3.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enhanced quality of identification in a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for obtaining a user identifier, said user identifier comprising an identification server ID and an identification randomized ID, said identification server ID identifying an identification server peer group, said identification server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between an identification randomized ID and a user authentication peer group capable of authenticating a user associated with a particular identification randomized ID, and a mapping between said identification randomized ID and user information; and

means for requesting authentication of said user by presenting said user identifier to a corresponding identification server peer group, each server in said identification server peer group configured to search for one or more matching entries including said randomized ID.